

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Meeting with Mecosta-Osceola County School Boards Association
Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District
Career Center – Robert Miller Wing
15830 190th Avenue
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

October 22, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mr. John C. Austin
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer

Also Present: Mr. Bill Cecil, Michigan Teacher of the Year

Absent: Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. Reginald M. Turner
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser
Ms. Sue C. Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio

I. OPENING COMMENTS

Mr. Terrence K. Conklin, Superintendent of Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Carolyn Curtin, Secretary of the State Board of Education and formerly a member of the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Board of Education, introduced the members of the Board of Education and Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Superintendent of Public Instruction.

III. INTRODUCTION OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF AND COMMENTS

Mr. Watkins introduced Michigan Department of Education staff members.

IV. OVERVIEW OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation on No Child Left Behind.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Evart Public Schools Board Room
Evart Middle School
321 North Hemlock
Evart, Michigan

October 23, 2003
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mr. John C. Austin
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone)
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser
Ms. Sue C. Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Bill Cecil, Michigan Teacher of the Year

Absent: Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the regular meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Progress Report on Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy Task Force Recommendations
- B. Report on High Priority Schools
- C. Executive Order No. 2003-20 Regarding the Transfer of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program to the Michigan Department of Education
- D. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of September 25, 2003
- E. Appointment of Committee of Scholars to Review the Baker College Application to Become a Teacher Preparation Institution
- F. 2003-2004 Refugee Children School Impact Grant – Continuation

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. 2001-2002 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Project

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Discussion Regarding 2004 State Board of Education Meeting Schedule – added to agenda
- B. 2003-2004 Refugee Children School Impact Grant – Continuation – added to agenda
- C. Report on Asia in Schools – removed from agenda

Mrs. Straus asked that the following item be added to the agenda as a discussion item: Discussion Regarding Replacing High School MEAP Tests with ACT Test.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Absent: McGuire, Turner

The motion carried.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting to convene as a Committee of the Whole at 9:32 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Carolyn Curtin, State Board of Education Secretary, introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting.

VIII. WELCOME FROM DR. HOWARD HYDE, SUPERINTENDENT, EVART PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Howard Hyde, Superintendent, Evart Public Schools, welcomed the State Board of Education members and staff. Mr. Hyde said the community is pleased that the Board is convening its meeting in Evart. Mr. Hyde said the students

appreciated the chance to speak to members of the Board and staff as they visited classrooms on October 22, 2003.

Mr. Hyde introduced Mr. Terry Conklin, Superintendent of Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District; Mr. Allan Bengry, President of the Evart Board of Education; and Ms. Lynn Salinas, President of the Marion Board of Education.

Mr. Hyde also introduced Mr. Jim Crees, Editor of the *Pioneer* newspaper in Big Rapids. Mr. Hyde said Mr. Crees has received an award from the Michigan Education Association honoring him for his support of public education. Mr. Hyde distributed copies of an opinion by Mr. Crees, "*There seems to be an acceptable double standard when it comes to misrepresenting public education,*" that appeared in the October 22, 2003 edition of the *Pioneer*.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Progress Report on Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy Task Force Recommendations

The following individuals participated in the presentation:

- Mrs. Carolyn Curtin, State Board of Education Member; and Chair of the Early Childhood Literacy Task Force
- Dr. Lindy Buch, Supervisor, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs

B. Report on Michigan Department of Education Charter School Review

The following individuals participated in the presentation:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. Jill Ashworth, Consultant, Improvement Solutions, Inc.

C. Report on High Priority Schools

The following individuals participated in the presentation:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Yvonne Caamal Canul, Special Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer

D. Update on No Child Left Behind/Rural Education

The following individuals participated in the presentation:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Tom Langdon, Superintendent, Walkerville Public Schools
- Mrs. Lori Tarrant Enos, Principal of Pioneer School, Clare Public Schools

E. Update on Grade Level Content Expectations Process

The following individual presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer

F. Update on Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Annual Yearly Progress

The following individual presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer

G. Report on Asia in Schools

This item was removed from the agenda.

X. RECESS

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of September 25, 2003

Mrs. Curtin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of Meeting of September 25, 2003.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Absent: McGuire, Turner**

The motion carried.

XII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Tour of Evart Public Schools

Mrs. Straus thanked Mrs. Curtin; Dr. Hyde; and all of the staff, students, and Board of Evart Public Schools for hosting the State Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Straus said the October 22 tour of Evart Middle School and High School was a privilege. She said Board members and staff were very impressed by the staff and students of the district.

B. National Association of State Boards of Education

Mrs. Straus said the National Association of State Boards of Education has established two study groups: Closing the Achievement Gap – State Strategies that Work, and the Changing Role of Interscholastic Athletics. Mrs. Straus said Michigan has been asked to participate, but Board members would have to pay the cost, because the Michigan Department of Education Appropriation Act prohibits the State Board of Education spending money on out-of-state trips. Mrs. Straus said there are some committees that convene using teleconferencing.

C. High School Leadership Summit

Mrs. Straus said she attended the High School Leadership Summit sponsored by the United States Department of Education on October 8, 2003. Mrs. Straus said other Michigan participants included Ms. Sue Carnell, Governor's Office; Mr. Jim Sandy, Michigan Business Leaders for Educational Excellence; Mr. Jim Ballard, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals; Mr. Jeremy Hughes, Michigan Department of Education; and students and principals from local educational agencies. Mrs. Straus said the theme of high school restructuring is rigorous curriculum, relevance, and relationships.

Mr. Sandy noted that students said they want to be challenged to be better academically and better people.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting via telephone at 1:45 p.m.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Cyndi Butler, 5604 104th Street, Howard City, MI 49329. Ms. Butler provided comments on inclusion.
- B. Mr. Bradley Butler, 5604 104th Street, Howard City, MI 49329. Mr. Butler shared a computer presentation of his inclusion experience at TriCounty High School.
- C. Ms. Colleen Simmons, 6763 Juneview, Rockford, MI 49341. Ms. Simmons provided a teacher's perspective on inclusion in her classroom.
- D. Mr. Bill Putnam, 7398 DeCosta, Rockford, MI 49341. Mr. Putnam shared comments on teaching in an inclusive classroom.
- E. Ms. Mary T. Wood, 27533 Santa Ana, Warren, MI 48093. Ms. Wood shared concerns about public school academy programs. Ms. Wood distributed written materials.

- F. Ms. Cheryl Kelly, 23308 West 4 Mile, Reed City, MI 49677. Ms. Kelly, official spokesperson for the Michigan Alternative Education Organization, expressed concerns regarding alternative education. Ms. Kelly distributed written materials.

XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. CAROLYN CURTIN

Mrs. Curtin introduced her husband, Mr. Joe Curtin, former Superintendent of Evart Public Schools; and Mrs. Marie Wilkerson, former Principal of Evart Elementary School.

XV. ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TREASURER

Mrs. Straus said that the office of Treasurer of the State Board of Education was declared vacant at the September 25, 2003, meeting when Dr. Herbert Moyer was elected Vice President. Mrs. Straus said that nominations are in order for the office of Treasurer.

Dr. Moyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that Mr. John C. Austin be nominated for Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus declared Mr. Austin Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

XVI. DISCUSSION REGARDING REPLACING HIGH SCHOOL MEAP TESTS WITH ACT TEST

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer, presented Discussion Regarding Replacing High School Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests with the American College Test (ACT) test.

Dr. Hughes said there has been discussion in the Legislature about replacing the high school MEAP tests with the ACT test. Dr. Hughes said Illinois and Colorado are using the ACT tests as their high school assessment test. Dr. Hughes said he has grave concerns about using a national test to assess student progress as well as meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Dr. Hughes said he does not believe that the ACT test would cost less than the administration of the MEAP tests, as has been stated. Dr. Hughes said he has done a comparison that shows the total high school cost per student of the MEAP test is \$32.96, and Illinois's testing program costs \$67 per student. Dr. Hughes said Illinois allows one free retake of the ACT test, and Michigan students have a maximum of six opportunities to retest.

Dr. Hughes said the ACT test is a multiple-choice test that can quickly be machine-scored. He said Michigan's MEAP test has been nationally recognized as a high-standards, rigorous test, partly because of the inclusion of constructed response items, which require hand-scoring.

Dr. Hughes said he has concerns about equity, because the ACT test is a college entrance examination, and he would like to know more about the impact on lower-ability students and students with disabilities.

Dr. Hughes said he also has concerns about criterion vs. norm-referenced testing when No Child Left Behind requires that every child be proficient. Dr. Hughes said in response to his question, United States Department of Education staff said there is no off-the-shelf test that adequately and completely measures all of the state's standards for student performance, however a test could be augmented.

Dr. Hughes said he spoke with Dr. Ed Roeber, a test development expert from New Hampshire, who served as a member of the *Education YES!* Accreditation Advisory Committee, who shares his concerns.

Mr. Cecil said he has concerns that changing testing is moving the target goal that teachers and students have been striving to reach.

Mr. Austin said Michigan has been a leader in aligning standards, benchmarks, and curriculum, and great progress is being made. He said a strong case based on facts should be made by the Board for standards driven assessment like MEAP.

Ms. Carnell said clarification is needed regarding testing costs, and numbers of Michigan students who currently take the ACT test.

Mr. Jim Sandy, said the Michigan Business Leaders for Educational Excellence, does not support replacing high school MEAP tests with the ACT test.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that staff be directed to write a report on the facts related to replacing the high school MEAP tests with the ACT test.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

XVII. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MICHIGAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Linda Brown, Acting Director, Office of Field Services; and Mr. Mazin Heiderson, Consultant, Office of Field Services; presented Approval of Proposed Michigan English Language Proficiency Standards for Purposes of Public Comment.

Ms. Brown said Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires states to establish standards and objectives for English language proficiency for limited English proficient students. Ms. Brown said Department staff have worked with a Title III Advisory Group to develop proposed standards aligned with the Michigan English Language Arts Standards. Ms. Brown said the Board is being asked to approve the proposed standards for purposes of public comment.

Mr. Heiderson said under the proposed standards, proficiency is defined as the ability to succeed in regular classes conducted in English without English language development support.

Ms. Brown introduced Ms. Sandra Hagman, English as a Second Language/Social Studies teacher from Southfield Public Schools; and Ms. Jackie Moase-Burke, from Oakland Schools. Ms. Brown said Ms. Hagman and Ms. Moase-Burke are members of the Ad Hoc Title III Advisory Committee.

Ms. Sandra Hagman provided oral and written comments on the need for English Proficiency Standards.

Ms. Carnell suggested the four domains be combined into one format that may be more user-friendly to teachers. In response to Ms. Carnell's question, Mr. Heiderson said public comment will be solicited from a broad audience.

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the proposed Michigan English Language Proficiency Standards for purposes of public comment, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 8, 2003.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

Mr. Austin left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

XVIII. APPROVAL OF ETS PARAPRO ASSESSMENT FOR PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STANDARD SETTING STUDY

Ms. Linda Brown, Acting Director, Office of Field Services, presented Approval of ETS ParaPro Assessment for Purposes of Conducting Standard Setting Study.

Mr. Watkins introduced Mr. Tim Gardner, Outreach Manager of Midwest National Field Sales, ETS ParaPro Assessment.

Ms. Brown said the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Title I paraprofessionals to complete two years of higher education, obtain an associate's degree, or pass a formal assessment of knowledge and ability to

assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics. Ms. Brown said Michigan currently has two approved assessment options, and the ETS ParaPro Assessment would provide a third option.

Ms. Brown said Department curriculum consultants have reviewed the sample test questions provided by ETS and determined that they are consistent with, and at an appropriate level of difficulty, for the Michigan content standards and benchmarks.

Ms. Brown said the ETS ParaPro Assessment is used in 33 states, and staff recommends approval of this assessment for purposes of conducting a standards setting study.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the ETS ParaPro Assessment for purposes of conducting the Standard Setting Study, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 8, 2003.

Ms. Carnell asked if the new grade level content expectations will be used. Ms. Brown said the tests will be based on the current content standards.

Ms. Carnell asked the cost of taking the test. Ms. Brown said the cost is \$40, and it is comparable to ACT WorkKeys testing.

Ms. Carnell asked how long it takes to receive testing results. Mr. Gardner said if internet testing is used, raw scores are immediate; if a paper and pencil test is used, results are available in approximately four weeks.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: Austin, McGuire

The motion carried.

XIX. UPDATE ON EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Ms. Elaine Madigan, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Government Services and Customer Satisfaction, presented an Update on Educational Legislation.

Ms. Madigan said there have been nine bills that have been introduced that would reform intermediate school district boards and/or their responsibilities, and hearings are being held throughout the state.

Ms. Madigan said she will mail Board members information on intermediate school districts, and the services they provide.

Mr. Turner said the Board and Department should offer to provide training on fiscal controls, accountability, and ethics training to increase public confidence in intermediate school districts.

Ms. Carnell said the *AYP Accountability Report: Plans for High Priority Schools* illustrates how intermediate school districts are aligning resources to help schools become accountable through No Child Left Behind. Mr. Watkins said the *Proposal A to A+* report highlights the efforts intermediate school districts are taking to maximize limited funding.

Ms. Madigan provided an update on Revenue Consensus and Proration of State Aid.

This was an update only and no action was required.

XX. APPROVAL OF REVISION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STRATEGIC GOAL FOR 2003-2004

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education Strategic Goal for 2003-2004 be revised to read, “Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students.”

Mrs. Straus said in order to be consistent with current terminology, the words “chronically underperforming” are being replaced with “high priority.”

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: Austin, McGuire

The motion carried.

XXI. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE OF SCHOLARS TO REVIEW THE BAKER
COLLEGE APPLICATION TO BECOME A TEACHER PREPARATION
INSTITUTION

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer, presented approval of Committee of Scholars to Review the Baker College Application to Become a Teacher Preparation Institution.

Dr. Hughes said Baker College has submitted an initial application for approval as a Michigan teacher preparation institution. He said in accordance with established procedures, a committee of scholars is to examine the application, visit the institution, and make recommendations regarding approval. Dr. Hughes said the Board is being asked to approve the appointment of the Committee of Scholars.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the appointment of Scott Behrens, Sue Hasseler, Dirck Roosevelt, Jo-Ann Snyder, and Carmen Zeigler as the Committee of Scholars for the review of the Baker College application for approval as a teacher preparation institution, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 23, 2003.

**Ayes: Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: Austin, McGuire**

The motion carried.

XXII. DISCUSSION REGARDING 2004 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the 2004 State Board of Education meetings be convened on the second Tuesday of each month.

**Ayes: Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Absent: Austin, McGuire**

The motion carried.

A list of State Board of Education 2004 Meeting Dates is attached as Exhibit A.

XXIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- N. Human Resources Report
- O. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers
- P. Report on the Conditional Approval of the St. Joseph Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- Q. Report on a Modification to the Previously Approved Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Grants

- R. 2003-2004 Supplemental Educational Service Providers – Amendment
- S. 2003-2004 Title I School Improvement – Continuation
- T. 2002-2003 State Discretionary Projects, Part B – Amendment

U. 2003-2004 Community Service Grant Contracts – Initial

W. 2003-2004 Refugee Children School Impact Grant – Continuation

Mr. Watkins distributed copies of “Superintendent’s Report” dated October 2003.

Mr. Watkins provided an oral report on the following:

A. Executive Order

Mr. Watkins said the Governor’s Executive Order 2003-20 that includes the transfer of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program was signed on October 20, 2003. Mr. Watkins said the order will take effect in 60 days, unless blocked by the Legislature.

B. Department Reorganization

Mr. Watkins said the reorganization of the Michigan Department of Education is pending approval of the Departments of Civil Service and Management and Budget. He said the reorganization is aligned with the Governor’s and Board’s strategic initiatives.

C. Budget Situation

Mr. Watkins said creative ideas are welcomed for relieving the funding shortage in the School Aid Budget. Mr. Watkins said further Department budget reductions may be required. Mr. Watkins said Department staff are taking furlough days and receiving less pay, and he commends staff for their hard work and dedication.

XXIV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Tuscola Intermediate School District Inservice – Mrs. Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said she and Dr. Catherine Smith, Office of Professional Preparation, did an inservice session on highly qualified teachers at Tuscola Intermediate School District on October 20, 2003. Mrs. Bauer thanked Dr. Smith for her dedication and expertise.

B. Kidspeak – Mrs. Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said she and Mr. Austin attended Michigan Kidspeak on October 22, 2003. Mrs. Bauer said students spoke about such issues as foster care, safe schools, mentors, after school programs, and zero tolerance.

C. State Board Meeting in Evert – Mrs. Carolyn Curtin

Mrs. Curtin said she is pleased that Evert Public Schools hosted the October 23, 2003, State Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Curtin thanked everyone who helped with the arrangements and attended the school visits and Board meeting.

XXV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

A. All Kids in School Action Group – Mrs. Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said the All Kids in School Action Group would like to present to the Board on January 13, 2004, and she is asking the agenda setting committee to consider this presentation.

XXVI. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Allan Bengry, President of the Evert Board of Education, thanked the Board for convening the meeting in Evert and visiting the schools. He encouraged the Board to continue to meet in various locations in the state.

XXVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. November 20, 2003
- B. December 18, 2003
- C. January 13, 2004
- D. February 10, 2004

XXVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary